

71-1945

Alabama

**Alabama Negroes
to get theatre
and playground**
10-15-45

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. — Tuscaloosa's city commission has bought the old home of Southern poet Samuel Minturn Peck for use as a Negro recreation center, projected by the interracial committee of the Tuscaloosa Religious Council, J. T. McKee, chairman, it was disclosed this week.

Near Stalman Institute in a populous Negro district, the property adjoins 30 acres already owned by the city school board which, in keeping with the segregated educational policy, are planned as a site for Negro schools. 10-15-45

Also reported from this city is the construction of a new \$40,000 theatre for Negroes.

Recreation Board Hears Citizens

Lash Out at Segregated Policies

Washington Tribune (Wash. D.C.)

More than 200 Washingtonians representing all races, all colors and all creeds from the labor, religious, and legal fields, registered vocal disapproval of the District Recreation Board's passage of a segregation ruling adopted June 12, on Tuesday afternoon at the Board's monthly meeting.

The seeming unending parade of prominent residents, who took the floor to place before the board the sheer folly of discrimination on the District playgrounds took three full hours.

Hundreds of interested parties were turned away from the room in which the meeting was held.

The Paragraph

The paragraph which put a traditional practice into law was read by the Board's secretary, who, incidentally, is the lone Negro on the body. She read:

"Recreation programs for white residents shall be conducted in regions A-F and in designated city-wide centers. Recreation programs for Negro residents shall be conducted in regions G-K and in designated city-wide centers."

Representing 22 organizations composed of residents of the District of Columbia, Dean William H. Hastie of the Howard Law School emphasized four points in lashing out at the Board's undemocratic policy. They are:

1. There is no legal justification for the regulation in question. Said Hastie, elaborating on the point, the board does not "require any such rule and the history of legislation shows that Congress considered and rejected a proposal to consider segregation in the law."

2. The effect of the Board's ruling is to force discontinuance of unsegregated use of recreational facilities...

3. The ruling of the Board imposes embarrassment and unjust hardship upon numerous organizations with both white and colored memberships.

4. We are entitled to look to governmental agencies in Wash-

ington, the national capital, to expansion, Rev. Francis McPeck set an example of decent and of the Washington Federation of democratic behavior for the na-Churches told the board he tion and for the United Nations couldn't understand the policy of

Three labor leaders also testified at the hearing representing several branches of the CIO. Miss Betty Hays, chairman of the Washington Labor Canteen said non-segregation has been shown by CIO canteen as desired by a "large number of servicemen."

Henry Bietscher of UFWA, told the group that segregation adopted by the board was indeed "ironic."

Robert Sherman of Washington Industrial Union Council said "the entire procedure used by the board is contrary to normal practices and could only occur in a city such as Washington, where citizens are deprived of the franchise."

A White Officer Testifies

Lt. Colonel Shramm, resident of the Georgetown area, where whites were driven from the Rose Park playgrounds, which was ruled a "colored playground," told the audience that he had a hard time explaining to his youngsters why they couldn't use the playground anymore. He added "perhaps the war had been fought in vain."

Dissenting Voices

Gordon M. Atherbolt, president of the white civic association group, drew the hisses from the crowd, when he said he opposed mixed playgrounds, because he attended mixed schools in Philadelphia, where all the obscene which we assume to lead.

McPeck Doesn't Understand

Complimenting the Recreation Board on its program and expressing a wish for its continual

enforced segregation.

Representing the Federation of Citizens' Association, a Mr. Henry, told the group that a "customary rule should be abolished." He said the present pattern of segregation has prevailed in the District "as far back as he can remember."

At the close of the meeting Mrs. Hunter moved that the board strike out the segregation clause. However, ruling on the citizens protests will not be taken up until the Board meets in September. 8-18-46

The Organizations Affiliated with the Citizens' Committee Against Segregation in Recreation are as follows:

1. National Association for the Advancement of Colored People—Washington Branch (Membership in excess of 10,000).
2. CIO Industrial Union Council—Washington, D. C. (14 Local unions).
3. Fraternal Council of Negro Welfare—Washington Committee.
5. Federation of Civic Associations, Inc. (23 Neighborhood Associations).
6. United Federal Workers of America, CIO—District Council.
7. United Office & Professional Workers of America, CIO—Local 27.
8. National Women's Trade Union League—Washington League.
9. Maritime Committee, CIO.
10. National Lawyers Guild, Washington Division.
11. Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, AFL—Washington Division.
12. Council of Negro Labor Leaders.
13. The Cooperative Bookshop—Washington.
14. Phi Delta Kappa (National Sorority).
15. Supreme Liberty Life Insurance Co.
16. John Wesley Methodist Church.
17. Mall Tennis Club.
18. Hotel & Restaurant Workers Union AFL—Local 80.
19. Labor Canteen—of Washington.
20. United Cafeteria Workers, CIO—Local 471.
21. Institute of Race Relations.
22. Citizens' Committee on Race Relations.
23. Sigma Delta Tau—Beta Chapter (Legal Fraternity).
24. Young Men's Christian Association—12th Street Branch.
25. Independent Funeral Directors Association (Negro funeral directors).
26. Federation of Parent-Teachers Associations.

27. Washington Urban League.
28. College Alumnae Club.
29. Inter-denominational Minister's Alliance.
31. Business and Professional Women's Club.
22. Fellowship of Reconciliation.

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Florida

Miami Negroes Finally Get Bathing Beach On Oceanfront

9-1-45
MIAMI, Fla. — (NNPA) — This month marked the gala opening of Virginia Beach, new oceanfront recreation center created by Dade county for the exclusive use of its colored residents and visitors.

The beach is the first opened to Negroes in the Miami area.

Two excursion boats—one with a capacity of 110 passengers, the other accommodating 60—operate on hourly schedules from the Miami mainland to the southern end of Virginia Key, an island lying between Biscayne Bay and the Atlantic.

Seven hundred feet of the clean, white beach on the Atlantic shore of this tropical island has been screened to keep out roving fish from the bathers' area. Ropes for non-swimmers to hang on, a first-aid station and a colored life guard in constant attendance are further protections. Eventually this beach, gently sloping out to deep water, will be three-quarters of a mile long, shaded by coconut trees.

Without waiting for restrictions on building materials to be removed, the Dade county commissioners had temporary facilities installed for immediate enjoyment by the county's 35,000 colored residents. These accommodations include bath-houses for men and women, lockers where clothes may be checked, shower rooms, picnic benches and tables placed among the coconut trees, and a concession stand. No hard liquor or beer is permitted—a rigid policy of the county commission in all its public recreation parks.

The beach is operated by a colored custodian and two attendants in addition to the life guard staff.

All these privileges are free. The only expense entailed in a trip to Virginia Beach, aside from personal purchases, is the cost of the round trip boat ride—45 minutes each way across the bay—amounting to 75 cents, of which ten cents is the federal government transportation tax.

More than 500 men, women and children participated in the fun on opening day, and attendance at the beach has been constant and growing ever since. A third excursion boat may be put on the run, if the demand continues to increase, stated Don Martin, superintendent of Dade county parks.

Commenting on the opening day at Virginia Beach, Martin said, "This beach has solved a problem that has confronted the county commissioners for years. Because private interests have gobbled up nearly all the ocean front in the county, it wasn't possible to find a suitable beach for our colored residents, who consequently had to travel miles to isolated spots in

order to enjoy ocean bathing. Now they have their own county beach at their front door. Miami's and Dade county's colored population, like the white, has been growing by leaps and bounds in the past few years; from 3,500 in the '30s to 35,000 today—and it is still growing.

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BATON ROUGE, LA.
ADVOCATE

Circ. D. 8,823 - S. 12,995

SEP 19 1945

Louisiana

P. Harrison who reported \$800 in cash and Annie Davis who reported \$120.10 in cash. More than 50 other captains will report before the end of the month.

Negro Recreation Fund Plans Events To Raise Funds

Negro groups have planned several events to be held for the current campaign for funds for a swimming pool and play center in South Baton Rouge on Terrace street across from the USO building.

Negro leaders in the business, professional and labor groups will serve as players in a baseball game to be held in City park Friday at 8 p. m. Captains for the opposing teams will be Andrew Smith, labor agent for the local plasterers, and Charlie Davis, owner of a negro taxi line. In charge of managing the game is J. L. Kraft, former coach at McKinley High school. Sponsor is Carrie L. Taylor, beautician and beauty school operator.

The Gospel Voices, negro singing aggregation which broadcasts regularly over local Station WJBO, has planned a concert in which four other singing groups will participate. These will sing at McKinley High school on Monday night, Oct. 1, and for admission all who enter will give a voluntary contribution to the pool fund. Singing with the Gospel Voices will be the Calvary Gospel Singers, Beulah Spiritual Singers, Kings of Harmony and Pilgrims Quartet.

Sept. 24 through 28 has been set aside for receiving voluntary contributions from the negro public school children. All negro school children are being asked to contribute to the fund through their individual classes and schools. In charge of this phase of the work are Ida Nance Givens, in charge of parish public schools; A. H. Jackson for McKinley High school; Father Edward Ledoux for Catholic schools; Dr. Felton G. Clark for Southern university, and Dr. J. M. Frazier for Leland college.

Sept. 30 has been set aside as "Church Day" in negro churches. All churches have been asked to take a special collection from their congregations on that day and report the following day to Joseph "Ever Ready" Henderson, director of the drive for negroes.

Two of the captains have already reached and exceeded the quota of \$771 assigned to every captain in the drive. These are Lillie

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New York

This Is What Our Children Need More Of--

New York Play Schools
Offer Kids In Crowded
Areas Relaxation, Training

By NORA HOLT

When the summer play schools opened in Manhattan and neighboring boroughs on the ninth of July, more than 3000 boys and girls hit the trail back to school, not to work, but to play.

Not the kind of play that means running the streets in wild disorder and abandon, but play that entails special direction for learning, recreation and health, with relaxation periods thrown in for good measure.

Relaxation Too

If you don't think the relaxation idea is a headache for both teacher and parent, ask some one who has had to combat a precocious or nervous child, whose energies effervesce all over the place. In PS 194 last week, when we dropped in to watch the youngsters at play, a young teacher was putting the relaxation routine into practice by reading a story to 6 and 7 agers, and the rapt attention, minus the usual jitters — which they exhibited showed they had learned to sit quietly and listen.

Play Schools

With the opening of 20 centers by the Play Schools Association, 119 West 57th Street, located in public schools, settlement houses and churches, plus 29 centers for school age children of working mothers under the Mayor's Committee for Wartime Care of Children, some of them operated by the Play Schools

Ass'n., a total of 49 centers are now serving these children in many capacities, hobbies, dramatics, block building, swimming, singing, dancing, cooking, sewing, painting, basketball and baseball, and escorted trips

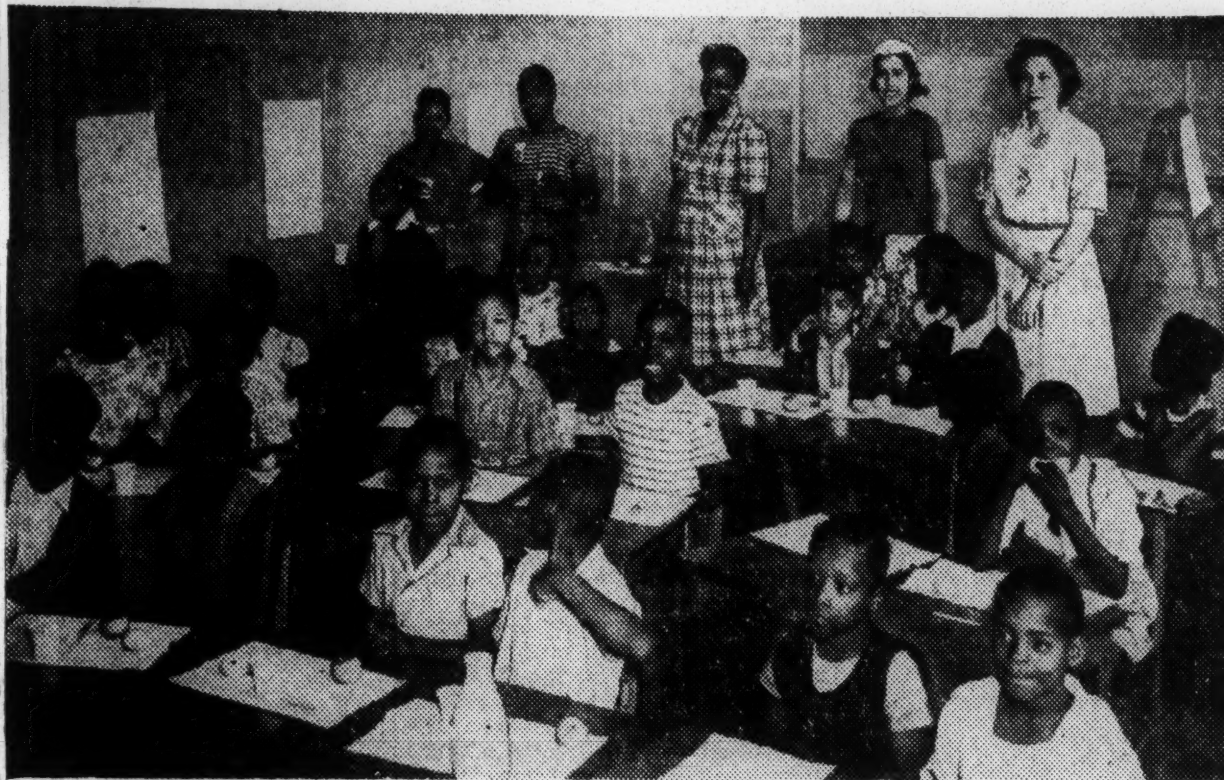
to points of interest.

PS 194

An example of what goes on in all the play schools, with some variations according to needs and districts, was exhibited in the All Day

Neighborhood Play School located in PS 194, 242 West 144th St., Benjamin F. Vaughan, director. The older boys had done a good job of painting as a clean-up measure, and activities included basket ball, checkers (see photo), block building, sewing, and other useful play programs. The children are served

"Come And Get It!"--Say Play Schools



TO THESE BRIGHT YOUNGSTERS at one of Manhattan's Play Schools, (PS 194), "Come and Get It" means a mid-day lunch consisting of buttered sandwiches, one egg, an apple, and fresh milk, or a trip to a wading pool to cool their hot tired little feet when the temperature reaches 95 degrees, or any one of a dozen other child interests. So here they are expecting this clean New World to include them in all its plans for living—education, civil rights and social justice.



GEE LOOK AT THESE KID ITZERS. But these teen-age boys don't mind too much for they are tired after a round of basketball and engage in a game of checkers for relaxation. Mr. Vaughan, director of the Play School at PS 194, 242 W. 144th Street, is trying to get in a word edge-wise, but even grandpa can't beat these cagey players once they get set in a tight game. Good, clean fun, and better than running the streets, don't you think?

regular meals — mid-morning and afternoon snacks with a substantial hot lunch equal to at least one-third of a day's requirement.

Densely Settled Area

Mr. Vaughan says the area which this school serves of more than 10,000 people — from 140th to 145th Streets, and Bradhurst to Lenox Avenues — is the most densely populated community of Negroes in this hemisphere and thus it wields a tremendously useful purpose as a sort of social balance for the community. Members of the staff, besides Mr. Vaughan, includes, Helene Grant, Program Director; Louise Oswell, Social Worker, and eleven teachers.

The Play School operates from 9 to 5:30 daily except Saturday and Sunday, and the agenda is also planned to build up in the child an appreciation and respect for his home and family. All play schools are inter-racial, says Germain Swain of the Play Schools Association, and further remarked that Negro directors are used in all predominantly colored schools with more to be engaged as they pass the exams based on graduation from Social Schools and experience in child care.

71-1945

Virginia

Alexandria Fund Drive

To Aid Negro Youths

~~Week (31) Post~~
As a means of financing a plan to build a clubhouse in Alexandria which would provide a well supervised recreational program for the Negro youth of the city, the Olympic Boys Club, Inc., is sponsoring a \$30,000 building fund drive extending through August 20.

Ferdinand F. Day, secretary of the campaign committee said house-to-house canvassing is no win progress. The drive is being conducted in cooperation with the Hopkins House Association, welfare unit for Negroes in Alexandria, and the plans are being carried out in line with suggestions by Judge W. H. Montgomery, representative from the Boys Club of America, Inc.

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NORTH CAROLINA will have the nation's first permanent state recreation commission. The bill authorizing it, recently passed, provides for seven full-time commissioners, of whom one shall be a woman and one a Negro. **NATION**

FLINT, MICH.
JOURNAL
C. D. 55,384 — S. 54,295
MAY 30 1945

Director for Year-Round Recreation Program Engaged

St. John St. Building Given by R. Spencer Bishop; Mott Foundation Brings Negro Leader

A long-felt need of Flint's Negro community was answered today with the announced donation of a modern brick community house at 2908-2910 St. John St. and engagement of a full-time director.

The building has been given over by R. Spencer Bishop, and Mott Foundation has brought John D. Russell, Little Rock, Ark., here to head a year 'round recreational program for both children and adults of both sexes.

An inter-racial committee of 25, which initiated, planned and is carrying out the project, is already at work renovating the building with assistance of City officials, the Park Board, Board of Education, NAACP and Urban League.

The 48 by 60 foot structure, which temporarily housed the Police Department's "Pal Club" some time ago, is being repartitioned to include on its first floor an auditorium to seat 150, a reading room, "coke bar," lounge, check room and space for boxing bouts.

The basement will have showers, toilets, a photographic dark room, handicraft department and possible a kitchenette.

No name has yet been chosen and a prize contest for this purpose will be one of the first events when the building is ready, a spokesman explained.

Membership cards are to be issued and a regular activity schedule for all ages will include indoor and outdoor sports and recreation.

As director, Mr. Russell has a background rich in athletic and supervisory experience. Now 38, he was an All-American Negro football player at Wilberforce University and also starred in baseball, basketball and tennis.

He was a successful coach in



John D. Russell
Little Rock and was a foreman in a war plant before coming here highly recommended for his present job.

Mr. Russell will work with the supervisory committee and interested organizations with the general purpose of providing "a recreational program that will serve the area between river and tracks," and to "promote a better feeling between the races."

Officers chosen are: President, Clifford C. Fielder; secretary,

Recreation

Willie Hamilton; vice-chairman, Elsie Pratt.

Other committee members are Charles Eason, James E. Pogue, Samuel Earley, J. D. McCallum, William Minardo, Arthur Morrison, Robert F. Williams, Bennie McCombs, Guy V. Houston, Willis Broady, Frank Manley, Mildred Pratt, Leon Roberson, Roman Cobb, Robert Duckett, L. I. Moore, Joy Watkins, Mrs. Odell Broadway, Nathaniel Nicholas, Rev. Norman Duketie, Jesse Governor, Robert Rawls, Frederick Salim, Melvin Banner.

REVEAL ARMY GRANTED USE OF SEABROOK, SURROUNDING AREA BY N. O. LEVEE BOARD JUNE 19TH

Louisiana Weekly

Although military and auxiliary police are reported to have exercised authority for quite some time in keeping civilians from swimming in the waters of Lake Pontchartrain between Franklin Avenue and the Industrial Canal, and from using the seawall at that point, exclusive use of that area was not granted military officials by the Levee Board of New Orleans until June 19, 1945, it was learned by the NAACP last week.

The first statement to this effect was made last Monday when Stanley M. Lemarie, president of the Orleans Levee Board, announced that the United States Army has been granted exclusive use of the seawall and beach from Franklin Avenue to the Industrial Canal for amphibious training purposes. Request for exclusive use was made by Colonel William M. Tow on behalf of the commanding general of this area, the announcement stated. City Ordinance 16542 had prohibited swimming in that area since July, 1943, however, it was felt that interference of civilians by military police and auxiliary police from the Port of Embarkation was uncalled for unless the area was restricted to the use of military personnel.

The area affected was the only section of the five-mile stretch of seawall in city limits proper that had been used by Negroes for

swimming. Since the passage of the city ordinance and the recent granting of the area to military use, Negroes of New Orleans have no place on the lakefront and have only one outmoded swimming pool to satisfy the need of 180,000 citizens.

It is pointed out by the NAACP that complaint was made to Gen. Fremont B. Hodson, commanding general of the Port of Embarkation, on June 11, 1945, of the interference of civilians by military and auxiliary police. On

June 19, General Hodson replied that the area was restricted for military use. On June 22, the NAACP asked for the date the area was restricted, and on July 3 the request was repeated.

On July 9 a statement was made by the Levee Board concerning the matter, and on July 12 the NAACP received a letter from General Hodson stating that authorization had been granted by the Levee Board on June 19, 1945.

FAIRMONT, W. VA.
WEST VIRGINIAN
C. D. 5,543
JUL 3 - 1945

CLARENCE LEE ENDORSES PARK

The city directors' post war plan to utilize the Old Fair Grounds as a recreation park for Negroes has been endorsed by Clarence ("Skinner") Lee.

More than anything else, he said, the Negroes need a swimming pool. The available holes at Buffalo creek and the Monongahela river are too dangerous for the youngsters.

He expressed the opinion that a fair proportion of the financing of the recreation park would be given high priority when materials again are available.

Lee is a leader in many activities here including the Negro Elks. He is best known to the people of the town, however, for the many years he has devoted to the physical care of the West High athletic teams, as trainer.

For some time the Old Fair Grounds project has been discussed at the City hall and some of the officials there believe it can be carried out as soon as the war is over.

PLAY FACILITIES FOR NEGROES ARE PROVIDED BY CITY

Work Is Similar To That Being Done At Areas For White People

The city recreation program at Negro playgrounds is now in operation, Miss Augusta Barnett, city recreation director, said yesterday.

The work that is being done is similar to that done at the white recreation centers in the city and the program will continue through the summer.

At Burton street school grounds, Hill street school grounds, and Walton street park, programs are conducted from 9 until 12 o'clock and from 3:30 until 7:30 o'clock each day, Monday through Friday.

At the Valley street recreation center a program is conducted daily from 9 until 8 o'clock.

In addition a program is conducted from 9 until 12 o'clock at Brown's temple, and at the lot on Southside avenue, where the old ball park was located, from 4 until 8 o'clock. These programs are conducted Monday through Friday.

The following staff has been named to handle the Negro recreation program under an advisory committee: C. L. Moore, director, Gladys Cowan, Adele Ruffin, Dodson Blakely, Ottis Greer and Charlie Green.

\$90,000 Recreation Center in Texas

MINERAL WALS, Tex.—(ANP) — The South Dallas USO center, formerly used by Negro troops, was purchased recently by the city and is now being used as a recreational center for Negro citizens.

The center, originally costing \$90,000 was purchased from the Federal Works agency for \$15,500, said Mayor John C. Miller. Appropriation of the center was expressed here by Mrs. A. B. DeMont, the president of the National Association of Colored Women, who lives in this city.

The recreational center is operated by colored citizens through the city recreational department under H. E. Dennis, chairman. The site was formerly the site where soldiers from Camp Wolters sought relief from training fatigue. In lauding the achievement of her native city, Mrs. DeMont said: "Doubtless this will be a worthy incentive to other communities and cities in all sections of our great America."